

Westside PACNews

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What Is The WPAC?

The Westside Project Area Council provides private citizens the means to give advice to City Hall on matters pertaining to infrastructure concerns as well as general living conditions within the area. We gather information, mediate issues, and assist the City in carrying out projects. WPAC Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5 P.M., at the West Division Police Substation located at 1835 Santa Fe Ave. All are encouraged to attend.

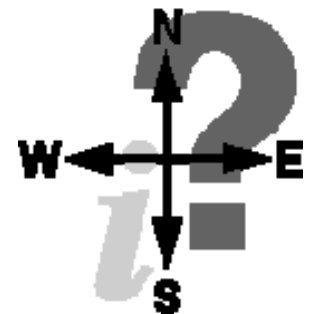
C3 Or Not C3? That Is The Question

Each of the three PACs find themselves at a crossroads; all determined and committed to remaining strong, viable bodies who, together and separately, will continue to lobby their neighborhood's (and one another's) best interests to City Hall, but all still debating the most impacting way to wield that muscle. CPAC and Uptown Partners have gone ahead and drafted new by-laws for their next configurations respectively, with Central leaning toward incorporating as a 501C4. They are reluctant to file as a 501C3, as this incorporation involves filing taxes and a host of other due diligence mandated by the state, and the 501C4 filing is an inexpensive way to remain in good standing with the City and State. Uptown Partners is attracted to the

idea of filing as an unincorporated non-profit, only for the time being, to remain a legal entity, and are in the process of having prospective members fill out applications so as to create a fresh board of directors. But neither group has filed anything yet. The prudent philosophy of "getting ones ducks in a row" reigns supreme. Same goes for the Westside.

The idea of an umbrella organization has been discussed that would marry all three PACs so as to provide more brawn with the City and State, but the pros and cons of such a move are still being weighed.

The summation at the WPAC April meeting was



to hold tight a little while longer to afford the Westside the opportunity

to make a cogent, unified decision. Some reasons to not file yet are that 1) it will cost money, which is in short supply at present, 2) the WPAC has no exposure currently (meaning we have nothing to protect ourselves from right now), and 3) it may benefit the WPAC to wait until the dust settles, as the City

Business And Employment Benefits For Westside

The Westside has enjoyed the talents of some outstanding RDA liaisons over the years; one of them was **Don Caldwell**. Mr. Caldwell possessed that wonderful combination of knowledge and affability, and was always available to the needs of this neighborhood. Recently, Mr. Caldwell has taken on a new position with the City:



that of Development Project Manager for the Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network, a division of the Human Resources Bureau.

The purpose of the PGWIN is to provide services to businesses and employment

opportunities for those seeking jobs. We're delighted that he has accepted our invitation to speak at our June meeting to share how your business can benefit from this program.

Some of the myriad services offered through this noble endeavor include:

Westside Business And Employment Benefits (continued from page 1)

- A \$3000 State Jobs Tax Credit for each new full-time employee hired for small business employers with less than 20 employees.
- Federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit, allowing employers to earn federal income tax credits for each qualified new hire from any one of twelve WOTC target groups.
- Facade Improvement Reimbursement Grants up to \$2,000 to qualified employers for signage or other exterior improvements.
- On-the-Job Training Grants reimbursing employers up to 50% of eligible new hire's training costs.
- Individualized recruitment assistance to help in hiring by coordinating, pre-screening, and scheduling interviews, and can provide skill assessments and background information on candidates.
 - Hiring events connecting the employer to potential hires.
 - Customized online recruitment providing candidate matching tools aiving the employer time and money.

And as if that weren't enough to inspire your participation with the PGWIN, they also host The Enterprise Zone Program, providing deductions and hiring tax credits to qualified businesses. The tax payer may apply for a voucher certificate to be redeemed when their state tax return is completed. Pacific Gateway will provide technical assistance and access to forms for businesses interested in applying for this hiring credit.

Westside businesses and those interested in working in the area should contact Mr. Caldwell by calling 562.570.4577 or by dropping him an email at don.caldwell@pacific-gateway.org. You can also check out their websites: www.hirelb.com and www.yournexthire.biz for more info.

Permitting Updates

Westside PAC member Paul Collins, a local architect who works closely with Planning and Building, volunteered to act as the WPAC liaison with that department, and the WPAC happily accepted. He will now be able to provide us monthly updates on changes in permits, procedure, requirements, fees, and other activities connected with Planning and Building that affect the Westside. Thank you, Mr. Collins!

Police Shutdown Encampment

Westside police shut down a homeless encampment positioned between Nicholson and 9th Street a few weeks ago, which has helped reduce criminal activity. Those folks have repositioned themselves closer to the Port of LA area, so the LBPD is working with Port Police and the Multi Service Center to further deter the problem. They were camped by RPM Trucking located at 2223 West Gaylord. At the end of Gaylord is a cul-de-sac, with two other trucking companies behind it. The camp, composed of approximately 30 people, was positioned in the ten-foot gap between the fences. One person was reported dead, which brought the police to the site. RPM Trucking was unaware that the land being used was actually their property, as the fence had been erected short of the property line. Once the people were moved out, RPM bulldozed the fence and moved it further out, eliminating the space.



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Office of the Mayor, Bob Foster
570-6801

Pat West, City Manager
570-6916

Amy Bodek,
Dir. Development Services
570-6428

Robert Garcia, 1st District Council
570-6919

James Johnson, 7th District Council
570-6139

Planning Department
570-6607

Port
590-4121

Police
570-3462

Parking
570-2866

Graffiti Hotline
570-2773

Illegal Dumping
570-2881

Code Enforcement
570-2633